

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

Commissioner Mood and Commissioner Molnar were absent. Commissioner Mood left his proxy with Commissioner Schneider.

APPEARANCE
Scott Fabel, Utility Division

(304) In the matter of N2006.10.142 – Qwest Corporation –On October 3, 2006 (Qwest) filed for Commission approval a Multi-State Agreement (MSA) between Qwest and McLeod USA Telecommunications Services, Inc. (McLeod USA). Qwest is filing the MSA with the Commission for approval pursuant to Section 2.18 (Large Business Customers with a Multi-State Presence) of its Exchange and Network Service Tariff, and pursuant to the Commissioner's April 16, 2006 Notice of Commission Action (NCA), Qwest filed proprietary cost information. The MSA is the result of Qwest renewing a contract with McLeod USA to provide telecommunications services within Qwest's incumbent territory which includes various locations in Montana. The services purchased by McLeod USA are available from other competitive carriers in addition to Qwest.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the Multi-State Agreement (MSA) between Qwest Corporation and McLeod USA Telecommunications Services, Inc. in Docket N2006.10.142. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

APPEARANCE
Phillip Cooke, Utility Division

(305) In the matter of the PSC's winter termination rules requiring utilities to obtain PSC approval before shutting off electric or natural gas service to nonpaying residential customers from November 1 to April 1. Commission policy has been to delegate authority on an annual basis to the PSC compliance staff to approve or disapprove utility requests for winter shutoffs. Staff seeks PSC action on delegation of authority for this winter's shutoff requests.

Commissioner Raney moved to delegate authority to compliance staff to approve or disapprove winter shutoff requests. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(306) In the matter of T-06.27.PCN-On August 21, 2006 Laura Smart dba Smart Cab, Libby, Montana filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity. That application was noticed to the public on September 15, 2006 and no protests have been received. (Class B passengers within the city of Libby, Montana to all points within Lincoln County Montana).

Commissioner Raney moved to approve Laura Smart's application in T-06.27.PCN. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

(307) In the matter of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner Raney moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of October 12, 2006. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

(308) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2006.9.139 – CenturyTel – Charge for providing additional copies of bills to customers:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve CenturyTel's tariff with the condition that CenturyTel provide customers request for bills, that are up to six months old at no charge and include language that a charge may not be assessed if the customer is requesting a bill over six months old to resolve a billing dispute. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 4 – 0.

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan, Legal Division

(309) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of access to MISO confidential information:

Commissioner Schneider moved to authorize staff to seek a request for protective order on MISO related tariff information. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion which passed 3-0.

APPEARANCE

Staci Litschauer, Centralized Services

(310) In the matter of exempt staff pay raise:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the 4% annual pay raise for exempt staff consistent with the pay plan with other employees. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGSON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)